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3-18-13

**Biography of Allen Ortiz**

Today I was happy to meet Allen Ortiz, who I will be working with for the next several weeks. When I picked him up from his classroom he seemed very hesitant but then after I explained to him that we will be working one on twice a week, he seemed eager to begin. This excited me because I am happy that he doesn’t think this is going to be boring! I think that it helps that he is positive about this situation, and will help throughout the experience.

Allen is 9 years old and a fourth grader in Mrs. Calvert’s class. He lives with his dad-Rodrigo, mom-Maria, older sister-Tamarah, younger sister-Abigail, and his grandma and grandpa. His mom is a nurse and works in a nursing home and his dad is a mechanic. He has a dog that is a Maltese and Yorkie mix named Caesar and another dog which he called “a police dog” Vincent. His favorites include: food is quesadillas and flautas, drink is Pepsi, color is red and subject in school is Math. He is an avid Fencing player. He was so excited while telling me about his Fencing. He has the gear at home and plays often with his friends and cousins. He told me he has many cousins who live close by, so he always has someone to play with. During Spring Break he went to California to visit some other family members. Again he was excited and eager to tell me all about his time there. They also went to Six Flags; his favorite rides were The Texas Giant, the Mr. Freeze, Aquaman and Batman. Then he told me how his family plans on visiting El Salvador, California and Mexico over the summer.

People would say that Allen is very fun, playful and helpful. He likes to help his friends and younger sister with homework. He also likes to read to his sister, I thought that was so sweet! He did tell me that his class doesn’t read out loud to one another or as a whole class. I find that to be different, because most of the classes I have visited, they always had a time where they would read aloud. He says he is good at football, riding his scooter, math, reading and fencing. He doesn’t think that he is good at history and science (kind of). When he fails at something, he tries again until he can accomplish the task. He likes to try new things and puts in good effort when doing so. His teachers would say that he is careful and that he is not a trouble maker and he makes good choices. His parents get upset with him when he lets the dog get out. The thing he does the best at is fencing. He really loves it and plays every weekend.

When I was asking about his reading habits, he was happy to tell me that he really enjoys reading. Then he told me that he reads every night before bed. He enjoys the Goosebumps series and the Black Lagoon. He said that he has an entire closet full of books, too many to count. His parents have read to him all his life, and that is how he started liking to read. He is aware of his local library. He visits once a week with his family, he checks out books but he also checks out movies. He thinks that he would enjoy receiving a book as a gift. He was very adamant about liking to read. This really put a smile on my face because we have that in common. We discussed how many books we read a year and were happy to find out that the number is quiet high! I do think he might have been exaggerating somewhat, but that is what kids do. When I had him rate the different genres he rated them very high, with the exception of Romance and Play/Dramas. He told me that his parents are very supportive with his school work. They help him in many different ways. His mom even makes her own flash cards with vocabulary words for him to work on. I think that is so great that he has so much support. He truly is a lucky kid to have that kind of support system, because there are so many kids who don’t have that.

I believe this is going to be a great experience, and I am lucky to have a student who likes school, and who enjoys reading. It does make me a little leery to the reason he was put this program, but I am sure there is something that he needs to work on. I will be glad when I do find out, so that we may begin to work on it. Overall, I think he is a great kid and I am looking forward to the next several weeks.